MARVEL
1
ULTRAMAN
THE TRIALS OF
ULTRAMAN
HIGGINS
GROOM
MANNA
FERIGATO
GRUNDETJERN
GURIHIRU
COSTA
ARTHUR ADAMS 10·27·2020
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Shin Hayata merged with the alien being known as Ultra to become Ultraman! Using the Beta Capsule, Shin can utilize Ultraman's superhuman strength, flight and energy rays--but only for three-minute increments. Working alongside the United Science Patrol, Ultraman protects the Earth from Kaiju, monstrous interdimensional invaders.

ULTRAMAN
THE TRIALS OF ULTRAMAN

Ultraman broke open the interdimensional vault in which the United Science Patrol had been secretly--and unsafely--imprisoning Kaiju. His hope was to direct the aggression of the Kaiju to himself and avoid further danger to the world. But the results have been more complicated...

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FROM RISE TO FALL

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California. 1970.
"IT OFTEN STARTS SMALL.
GHN!
KRK
YOU WANNA KILL WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN A GARBAGE WAR?!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET!
LOOK AT HIM! LOOK AT HIM CRAWL! GET OFF YOUR KNEES, MAN! AIN'T NO JUNGLE HERE!
"A LACK OF EMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING.
"A SITUATION THAT ACCENTUATES THE WORST IN US.
HAHAHA! DUDE, YOU PLANTED HIM!
OH, DAMN! DUDE'S GOT A KNIFE!
WHOA, BUDDY, HOLD ON--
"THAT IS THE ENERGY...
"...THAT CHANGES THINGS.
AIIIEEE! AIIIEEE!
"ACTIONS, AFTER ALL..."

1975.
"...HAVE CONSEQUENCES.
"BUT THAT'S WHERE WE COME IN. THE UNITED SCIENCE PATROL.
"OVER THE COURSE OF THE LAST SEVERAL DECADES, WE HAVE DEVELOPED A RANGE OF MEANS TO CONFRONT KAIJU.
"OUR MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD WAS THE K-RAY.
"A DEVICE CAPABLE OF...MANAGING THE CREATURES...
"...BY SENDING THEM TO AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT DIMENSION.
THOOM

SRWWWR!
"FOR A TIME, IT ALLOWED US TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM DISCREETLY...
"AS WE WERE ABLE TO RID THE WORLD OF MORE...
QRRZT
QRRZZT
"...AND MORE...
URRRRN!
"...KAIJU.
QRRZT
QRRZZZT
"NOW, UNFORTUNATELY..."

Today.
...THAT IS NO LONGER THE CASE. BUT I AM HERE TODAY TO TELL YOU--YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.
MY NAME IS AUDE MORHEIM AND I AM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED SCIENCE PATROL--A PREVIOUSLY SECRET INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT EXISTS SOLELY TO PROTECT THE WORLD FROM MONSTERS.
WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE THE KAIJU COME FROM, OR HOW EXACTLY THEY MANIFEST IN OUR REALITY. BUT WE DO KNOW WHAT THEY CRAVE. WHAT ATTRACTS THEM. WHAT FUELS THEM.

OUR AWFULNESS.

THE REVELATIONS OF THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAVE NO DOUBT COME AS A SHOCK. BUT WHAT YOU'RE JUST COMING TO BE AWARE OF HAS ALWAYS LURKED IN THE DARKNESS.
THE ONLY DIFFERENCE NOW IS THAT OUR K-RAYS ARE NO LONGER A VIABLE MEANS OF COMBATTING THE BEASTS, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DO OUR WORK IN SECRET.
SO WE SHALL NO LONGER OPERATE IN SECRET. WE SHALL NO LONGER HIDE ANYTHING FROM YOU. WE WILL CONFRONT THIS CRISIS TOGETHER. HEAD-ON.

AND WITH HELP.
UGH. SHE'S TALKING ABOUT THE "ULTRAMAN" THING, ISN'T SHE? ARE ANY OF YOU BUYING THIS?
BREAKING NEWS
DECADES-OLD SECRET ORGANIZATION STEPS INTO THE LIGHT
EXCLUSIVE CHANNEL 10 NEWS

I DON'T KNOW...MY SISTER-IN-LAW'S COUSIN WAS IN TOKYO, SHE SAW THE GUY WITH HER OWN EYES.
I DON'T CARE WHAT ANYONE THINKS THEY SAW--A GIANT SILVER DUDE FIGHTING A DRAGON? I HAVEN'T GOTTEN THIS FAR IN LIFE BY FALLING FOR CRAP LIKE THAT--
KA-DOOOM
SOMEONE TELL HASSAN TO CHECK THE DRILL STRING! IF THAT WAS RESERVOIR PRESSURE--
UHH...I DON'T THINK IT WAS RESERVOIR PRESSURE, GARY...
CAUTION

DO YOU THINK THIS IS WHY WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND THE OTHER GIANT KAIJU YET? THEY'RE ALL HIDING IN THE OCEAN LIKE THIS GUY?
I HAVE NO MORE INFORMATION THAN YOU, SHIN HAYATA. TOGETHER, WE WITNESSED MANY GIANT KAIJU IN WHAT YOU CALLED THE "KAIJU VAULT" BEFORE WE RELEASED THEM.
THEY MUST BE *SOMEWHERE.*
RUUMBLE
I REALLY DON'T WANT TO DIE ON THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN. WE GOTTA WRAP THIS UP.
THE CREATURE WAS WEAKENED BY THE FALL, BUT IT HAS NO SINGLE WEAK *POINT.* THE SPACIUM BEAM MAY NOT ADEQUATELY RESOLVE THIS SITUATION. BUT IF WE CAN FOCUS ITS ENERGIES INTO SOMETHING MORE BROADLY DESTRUCTIVE--
WHATEVER YOU'RE THINKING, I'M INTO IT. I'LL FOLLOW YOUR LEAD.

ZNNNNZ
KEEEEE
WE CRUSHED THAT!
INDEED. ALTHOUGH, PESTAR WAS ONE OF THE SMALLER "GIANT KAIJU."
WELL, THAT'S CONCERNING, SURE.
HEY, SHIN? OR, UH, ULTRAMAN? WE HAVEN'T TRIED SPECIALIST IDE'S FANCY E.M. RADIO LOOP UNDERWATER YET-- CAN YOU HEAR ME?
DANGER
YOU ARE AUDIBLE TO US, KIKI FUJI.
IT LOOKS LIKE THE FORCE OF YOU AND PESTAR HITTING THE OCEAN FLOOR DID A NUMBER ON THE DRILL PIPE.
YOU SPRUNG A LEAK.

SUCH A CRUDE WAY OF HARNESSING ENERGY...
DID YOU JUST MAKE A PUN?
DO YOU MEAN, DID I EXPLOIT THE FACT THAT THE WORD "CRUDE" HAS DIFFERENT POSSIBLE INTERPRETATIONS BASED ON CONTEXT, FOR THE SAKE OF HUMOR?
NO. I DID NOT.
SIGH OF COURSE YOU DIDN'T.
I WILL ENDEAVOR TO LEARN ENOUGH TO CORRECTLY AND INTENTIONALLY EXECUTE PUNS, SHIN HAYATA. UNFORTUNATELY, THOUGH, WE HAVE COME TO THE END OF OUR TIME TOGETHER.
WAIT, WHAT? BUT THERE'S STILL SO MUCH FOR US TO DO--SO MANY KAIJU TO FIND!
YES. AND UNLESS YOU REACH THE SURFACE, WE WILL NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY. THE COLOR TIMER ON OUR CHEST IS TELLING US THAT OUR CURRENT FORM HAS REACHED ITS LIMIT.
OKAY, JUST A...NOTE FOR NEXT TIME? "THE END OF OUR TIME TOGETHER" ABSOLUTELY SOUNDS MORE FINAL THAN "WE HAVE TO UN-TRANSFORM."
MM. I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. I WILL ALSO WORK TO ADJUST MY VERNACULAR GOING FORWARD.
THANKS. IT'S MUCH APPRECIATED--
GHHHN!

HRRRRR!
"THAT WAS ALMOST A DISASTER."

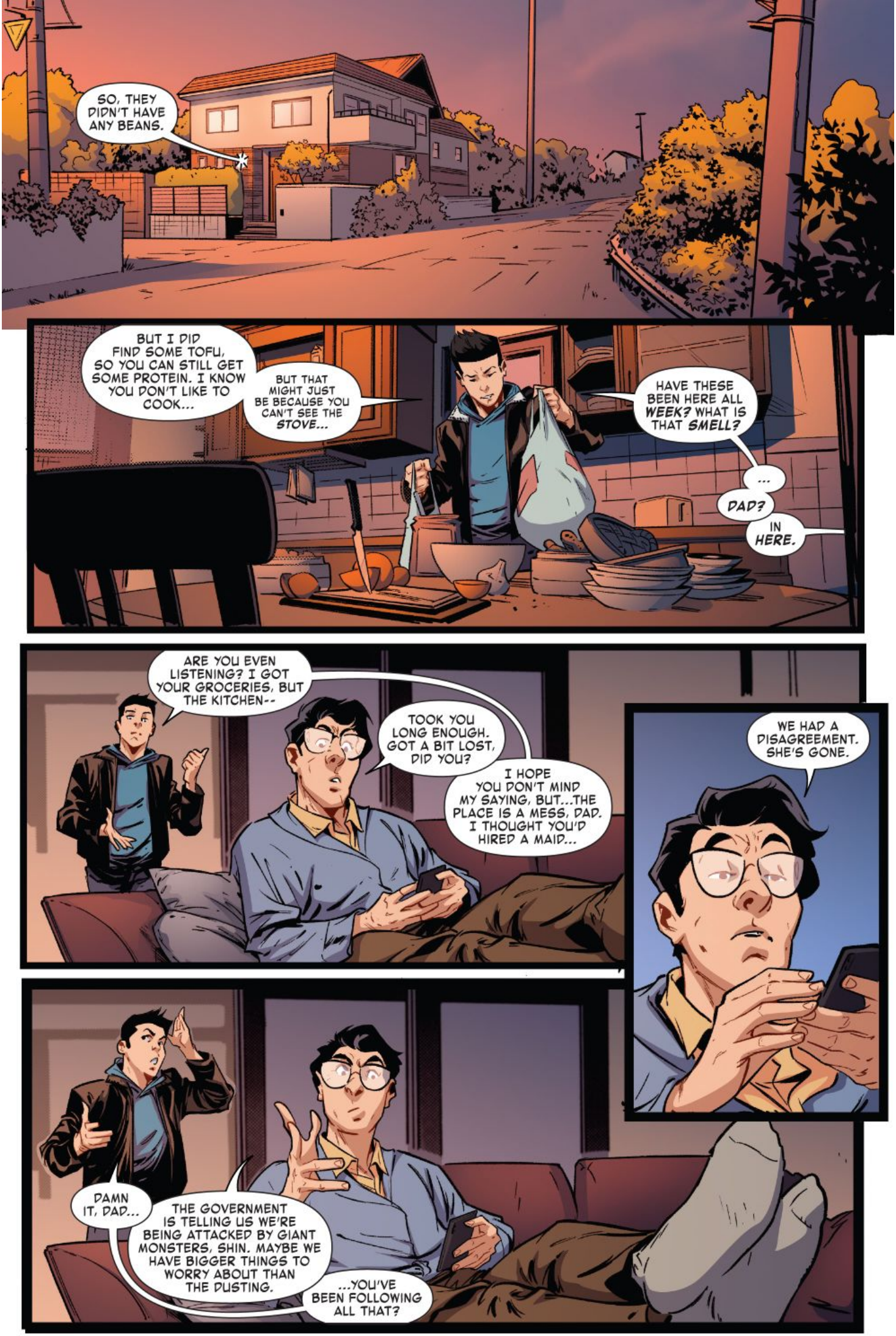
WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT CONFLICTS WITH THESE GIANT KAIJU DON'T OCCUR WITHIN THE BORDERS OF NATION-STATES UNLESS THEY--*AT LEAST!*--HAVE TREATY AGREEMENTS WITH THE USP.
OKAY, I'LL SPEAK TO THE GIANT KAIJU ABOUT THAT, CAPTAIN MURAMATSU. I'M SURE THEY'LL TAKE IT UNDER CONSIDERATION.
I'LL SETTLE FOR MAKING TOWELS STANDARD ISSUE ON VTOLS.
I WAS BEING QUITE SERIOUS, CADET FUJI. I KNOW *ULTRAMAN* DOESN'T HAVE JURISDICTION PROBLEMS, BUT THE USP DOES.
I HAD TO CONDUCT AN *EXTREMELY* TENSE NEGOTIATION WITH ALARMED AND CONFUSED NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS--AT GUNPOINT!--TO ALLOW US TO EXTRACT HAYATA FROM THE PLATFORM AT ALL.
...SO COLD...
AND *I* HAD TO GRAB SHIN OUT OF THE OCEAN WITH THE CLAW-THINGY, AND WHILE OPERATING IT I THINK I MIGHT HAVE SPRAINED MY WRIST IN SOME MINOR FASHION!
SO. Y'KNOW. IT'S BEEN A HARD DAY FOR ALL OF US.
HAYATA! COME WITH ME.
ACTUALLY, DIRECTOR ICHINOTANI, I'D RATHER HAVE A LONG SHOWER AND THEN TAKE AN EVEN LONGER NAP, IF THAT'S IN THE CARDS AT ALL.
AFRAID NOT, MY BOY. THIS...

"...IS ONE MEETING YOU DO NOT SKIP."
LOOK, IT'S A PROBLEM WE HAD TO RESOLVE AT SOME POINT. WHY NOT LET "ULTRAMAN" RESOLVE IT FOR US?
YOU PLAY A DANGEROUS GAME.
OF THE GROUP, I'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE THE ONE WHO COULD APPRECIATE THAT.
OH, I DO. VERY MUCH. YOU ARE...ARTFUL, MORHEIM.
BUT YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHY THERE IS CONCERN.
HALF A CENTURY OF SUCCESS ISN'T ENOUGH TO STOP QUESTIONING MY JUDGMENT?
DO NOT BE PETULANT. YOU INVITED A WOLF INTO THE HEN-HOUSE.
I AM THE WOLF HERE!
I...I'M SORRY, SIRE...
I WILL CONSIDER YOUR APOLOGY LATER. FOR NOW, COMPOSE YOURSELF. YOU ARE ABOUT TO HAVE COMPANY.

OH! EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MORHEIM! BUT WEREN'T YOU JUST... ON TV...? IN PARIS?
VTOLS TRAVEL RATHER FAST, CADET HAYATA. THEY CERTAINLY ENABLE ME TO ZIP ABOUT A TRIFLE FASTER THAN MOST MY AGE. I DID HURRY HERE, THOUGH. I WANTED THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN MYSELF.
ABOUT WHY YOU WOULDN'T LET ME ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE? AND REVEAL MY IDENTITY?
WHY DO YOU WISH TO BE A CELEBRITY, I WONDER?
I DON'T.
OH? BECAUSE DIRECTOR ICHINOTANI RELAYED MULTIPLE REQUESTS...
NO, I MEANT--IT'S NOT ABOUT BEING A CELEBRITY. PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE SCARED, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. AND I WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT I'M--THAT ULTRAMAN IS ON THEIR SIDE. THEY'LL TRUST US IF WE CAN SHOW THEM WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE.
I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE POINT OF THE "BRIGHT, OPTIMISTIC" NEW UNIFORMS YOU SUGGESTED? WHICH, I WOULD LIKE TO ADD, I APPROVED--DESPITE THE GREAT LOGISTICAL DIFFICULTY AND SIGNIFICANT EXPENSE OF ROLLING THEM OUT IN A MATTER OF WEEKS.
SON, I AGREED TO ALLOW YOU TO OPEN THE KAIJU VAULT BECAUSE I KNEW WE'D HAVE ULTRAMAN TO CONTAIN THE FALLOUT.
BUT REVEALING THAT YOU ARE, IN FACT, ONE HALF OF ULTRAMAN...YOU WOULD BE RISKING ALL THAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH.
RISKING IT HOW...?
THERE'S A LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME YOU CAN "BE" ULTRAMAN, CORRECT? A FEW MINUTES AT A TIME...AND A LIMITED AMOUNT OF "USES" BEFORE THE POWER IS GONE FOREVER?
WHICH MEANS, FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF YOUR LIFE, YOU WILL BE SHIN HAYATA. AND IN THOSE TIMES, WE COULD LOSE ULTRAMAN TO A BULLET...OR A KNIFE...OR A SUFFICIENTLY SIZED ROCK...
YOU THINK SOMEONE WOULD TRY TO KILL ME? BUT...I'M HERE TO HELP...
OH, MY BOY. YOU DO HAVE A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT THE WORLD, DON'T YOU?

One month later.
NEWS
THIS SAYS THE USP "TOOK NECESSARY MEASURES" TO CONCEAL ITS EXISTENCE FROM US, BUT DOESN'T MENTION AT ALL WHAT THOSE MEASURES WERE. THIS ISN'T TRANSPARENCY. THIS IS INSANE.
TELL ME--WHAT'S MORE LIKELY? GIANT DEMONS ARE ATTACKING THE EARTH, OR THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO SCARE YOU TO JUSTIFY RAISING YOUR TAXES? HMMM?
SHN host goes mad against USP!!
3.517.785 views
Attacks
Taxes
ofessor Nikaido reveals USP conspiracy!
8.755.556 views
THE EXTENT OF MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE USP--WELL, IT WAS A SECRET ORGANIZATION, SO-- ANYBODY CLAIMING TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT ANYBODY ELSE KNEW, THERE'S NO CONCRETE--UH, IT'S ALL BASELESS CONJECTURE, REALLY...
What's behind USP?
9.533.567 views
--FOUR QUICK TIPS TO GET YOUR BUNKER READY FOR THE KAIJU APOCALYPSE!
Get ready for KAIJU APOCALYPSE
4.676.143 views

LISTEN, I--
DON'T. DON'T DO IT. DON'T ASK FOR BEANS. WE DON'T HAVE ANY MORE BEANS. I DON'T KNOW WHEN WE'LL HAVE BEANS AGAIN. I NEVER WANT TO HEAR THE WORD "BEANS" AGAIN IN MY LIFE.
NO BEANS. GOT IT.
YOU SEEM TROUBLED, SHIN HAYATA.
YEAH, I DON'T KNOW.
I MEAN, I THOUGHT GOING PUBLIC AND OPENING THE KAIJU VAULT BEFORE IT BURST WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO GO LIKE THIS. I DIDN'T THINK PEOPLE WOULD REACT *THIS* BADLY.
YOU CONVINCED ME OF THE POTENTIAL OF YOUR PEOPLE. YOU MUST NOW CONVINCE YOURSELF.
I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO *SHOW* THEM...
IF THE PATH TO BE DISCOVERED WERE NOT NOVEL, IT WOULD NOT *NEED* TO BE DISCOVERED.
HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU THAT YOU'D BE GREAT AT WRITING HOROSCOPES?
YOU ARE THE ONLY HUMAN I HAVE EVER "TALKED" WITH. SO, NO. BUT IT IS HEARTENING TO HEAR THAT YOU BELIEVE I WOULD BE ABLE TO FIND GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT ON THIS PLANET, SHOULD I EVER NEED TO DO SO.


SO, THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY BEANS.
BUT I DID FIND SOME TOFU, SO YOU CAN STILL GET SOME PROTEIN. I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE TO COOK...
BUT THAT MIGHT JUST BE BECAUSE YOU CAN'T SEE THE STOVE...
HAVE THESE BEEN HERE ALL WEEK? WHAT IS THAT SMELL?
...
DAD?
IN HERE.
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING? I GOT YOUR GROCERIES, BUT THE KITCHEN--
TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH. GOT A BIT LOST, DID YOU?
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY SAYING, BUT...THE PLACE IS A MESS, DAD. I THOUGHT YOU'D HIRED A MAID...
WE HAD A DISAGREEMENT. SHE'S GONE.
DAMN IT, DAD...
THE GOVERNMENT IS TELLING US WE'RE BEING ATTACKED BY GIANT MONSTERS, SHIN. MAYBE WE HAVE BIGGER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT THAN THE DUSTING.
...YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING ALL THAT?

IT'S A LITTLE HARD TO IGNORE.
SO... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
OF WHAT?
OF... ULTRAMAN.
HA! HE'S A *STUNT.*
WHAT? THAT'S NOT--HE'S HERE TO *HELP*--
YOU'RE SO NAIVE.
I'VE BEEN READING! THE GOVERNMENT IS USING HIM TO GIN UP--
NO. NO. ULTRAMAN IS A *PROTECTOR.* HE FIGHTS FOR US.
AND HOW COULD YOU *POSSIBLY* KNOW THAT?
BECAUSE... BECAUSE I JUST *DO*--
OH, YOU "JUST KNOW"?
BECAUSE NO MATTER YOUR HISTORY OF *TERRIBLE* JUDGMENT, YOU JUST *KNOW* WHAT'S RIGHT?
BECAUSE YOU'RE JUST *SO* MUCH SMARTER--

I KNOW BECAUSE I'M ULTRAMAN!
OH. DAMMIT... HOLD ON...

HEY.
UH, HEY, KIKI. NOW'S NOT REALLY A GREAT TIME...
TRUST ME, YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO HEAR THIS. PLUS, IT'S A BIT OF AN EMERGENCY.
REMEMBER THE STORY I TOLD YOU ABOUT DAN MOROBOSHI?
YEAH. THE GUY WHO DISAPPEARED IN 1966, WHEN THE FIRST ULTRA CAME TO EARTH.
RIGHT. WELL, HE, UH... TURNED UP.
OH! WELL, THAT'S... SURPRISING! BUT GOOD!
...RIGHT?
UH, NOT QUITE. YOU SEE, THE THING IS...

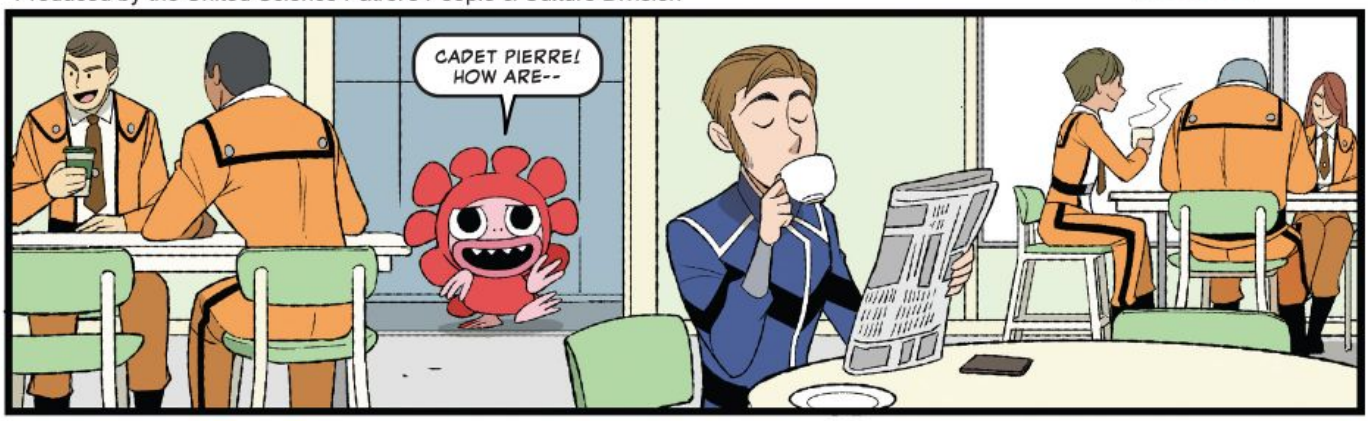
"...SOMEBODY ELSE FOUND HIM FIRST."
TO BE CONTINUED...

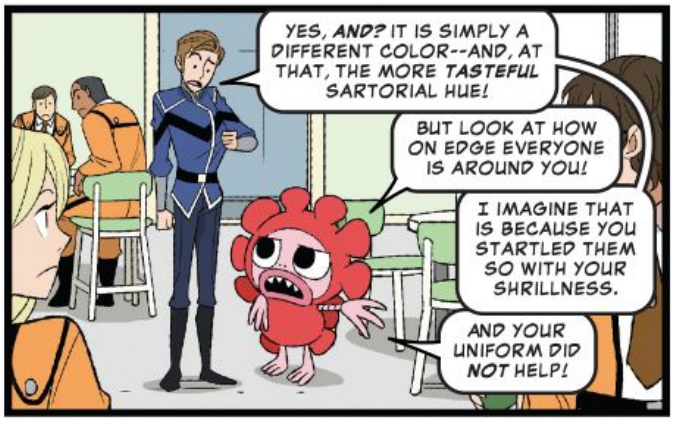
Secret's out, we're public, time to rep with pep ♪♫
by following the guidance of the

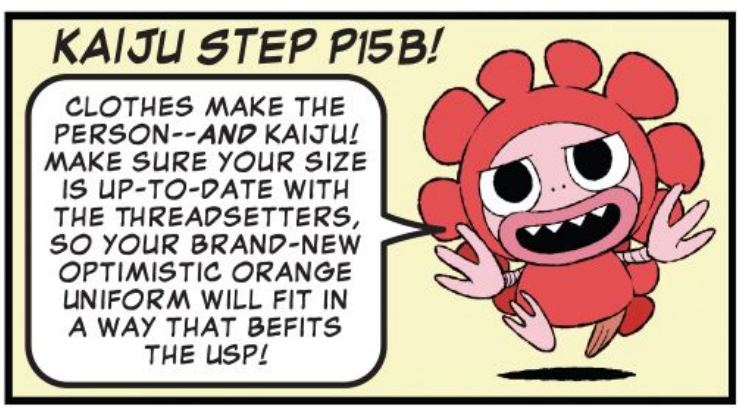
KAIJU STEPS

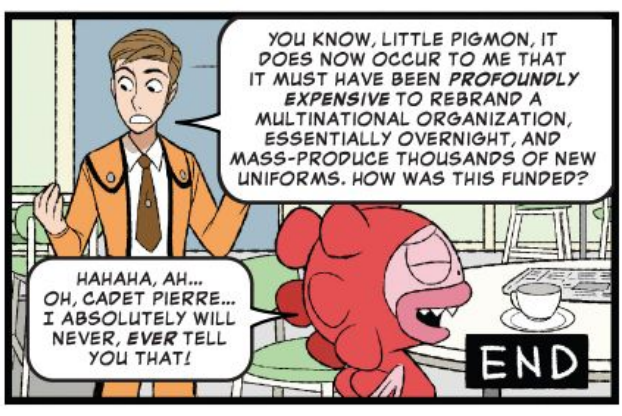
WITH PIGMON!

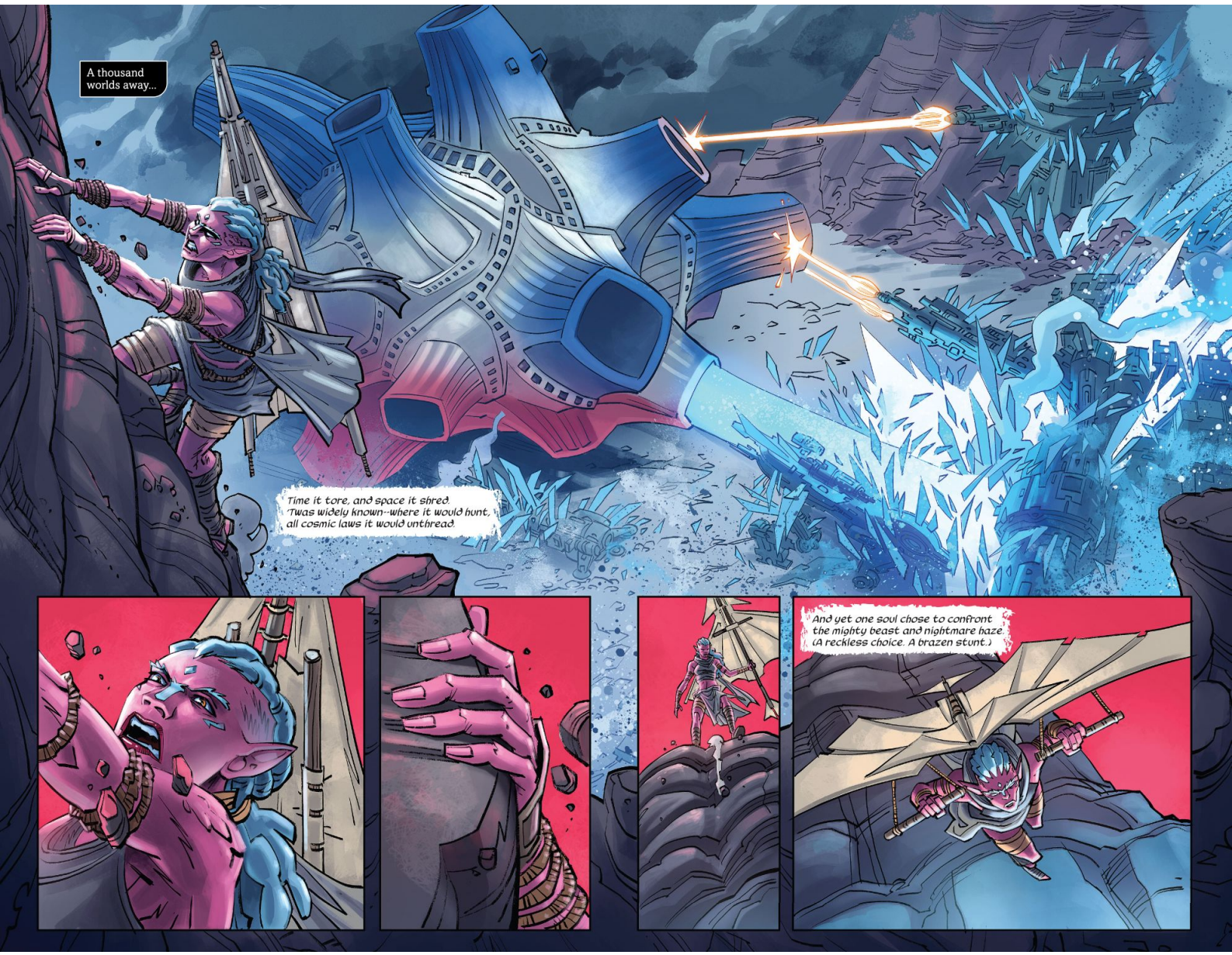
Produced by the United Science Patrol's People & Culture Division










A thousand worlds away...
Time it tore, and space it shred.
'Twas widely known--where it would hunt,
all cosmic laws it would unthread.
And yet one soul chose to confront
the mighty beast and nightmare haze.
(A reckless choice. A brazen stunt.)

She lost the kin she'd sworn to raise
and so conceived a simple plot:
"My life for his" (to paraphrase).

Such bargains are so often sought from those who reign above us all, and stew none on our mortal lot.

Of no import, her role was small.
Not trained to fight at all, and yet--
against the odds, she did stand tall.

It seemed assured, their deaths were set.
And then--from where, they could not know--
arrived the means to face the threat.

Till dark they hid, kept still, kept low
then took their shot--to home they ran.
A touch of hope...in tale of woe.

KCHZZT
They could not know the Fates' grand plan:
The force from which they had just fled
would be...
...the Fall of Ultraman.

Secret's out, we're public, time to rep with pep
by following the guidance of the

KAIJU STEPS

WITH PIGMON!

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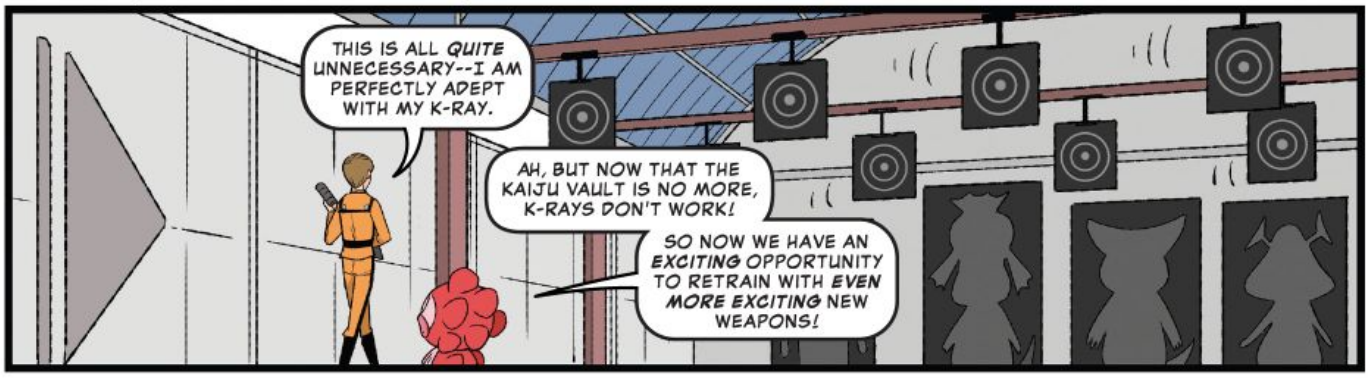

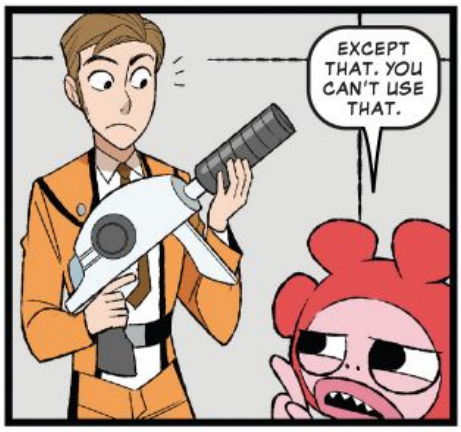

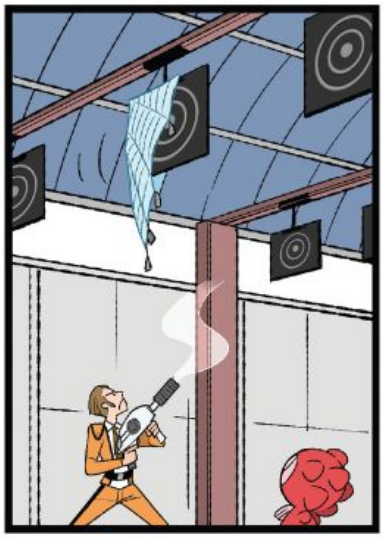

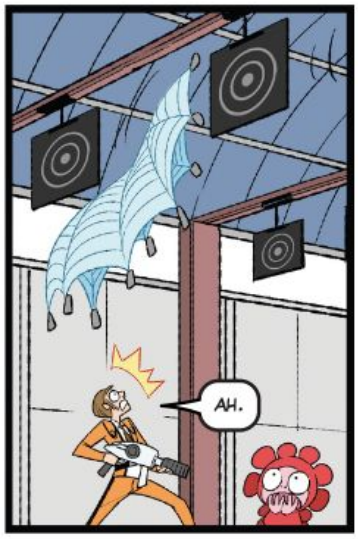

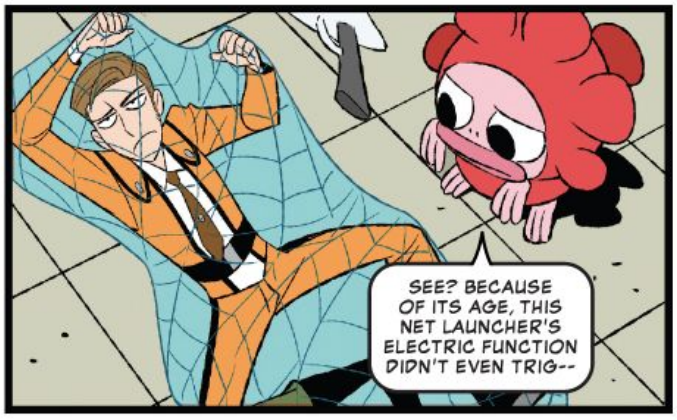

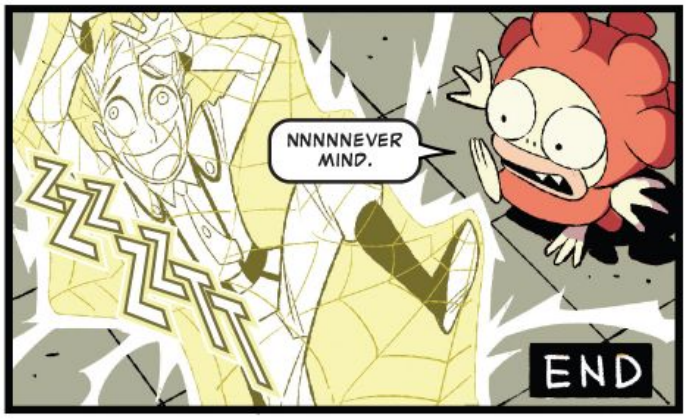

NEXT

When a team member is in danger, you pull out all the stops to save them. But even if Team Ultraman can pull off an unorthodox rescue, the results will raise some mind-bending questions...and put our heroes in the crosshairs of a brand-new threat!

ZONE